

ber at the home of Manasses S. Harley, the grocer, at Penn and Union streets, with twenty-one members. Officers were elected as follows: Trustees, M. S. Harley and Anson S. Kline; A. S. Kline, Secretary, and Henry Landis, Treasurer. The deacons and elders will be chosen upon the dedication of the church.

The First Brethren Congregation has been worshipping for the past two years in Runk's Hall and in the German Baptist Church. Services have been held every two weeks on Sunday afternoon and evening in the German Baptist Church. Elder I. D. Bowman, of Philadelphia, has conducted many services for them and Revs. E. E. Roberts and J. C. Cassel alternated as pastor. The congregation has a King's Children, of which the officers are: President, M. S. Harley; Secretary, Miss Alice Harley; Treasurer, Henry Landis. There is also a Woman's Aid Society with these officers: President, Mrs. M. S. Harley; Treasurer, Miss Susie Harley; Secretary, Mrs. A. S. Kline.

The members of the congregation are Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Harley, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Kline, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Musselman, Mr. and Mrs. John Roth, Henry Landis, Misses Alice, Susie and Kate Harley, Peter Kauffman, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Geissinger, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Yoder and Mrs. Francis Schwaninger, of Allentown, and Mr. and Mrs. James Wright and Mrs. John Weaver, of Bethlehem.

Because of the unique position which it holds, a brief sketch of the Brethren church is not out of place. It originated in Germany. Alexander Mack, its founder, with seven others came together from different denominations and after reading and searching the scriptures for themselves, accepted the New Testament as their only creed. Some years later after considerable progress in Germany they were driven by persecution to America.

One of their first churches was built at Germantown. A little later one was built near Sergeantsville, N. J., called the Anwel church. Since that time they have spread all over the United States.

For many years they made rapid progress. One of the first, if not the first, Sunday School in this country was started by them. But like many other churches their progress was greatly hindered after about 106 years of victory by the introduction of traditions of men. For some forty or fifty years they gradually lost the original power of the Holy Spirit. Wolves entered and finally, after opposing human creeds for over 150 years, they adopted the creed known as the Mandatory Act of the Annual Meeting of 1882.

This unfortunate act split the church into three parts. The one part called themselves "The Old Order German Baptists." They reestablished the customs of the church practiced some forty or fifty years prior to this date. They number today probably between 10,000 and 15,000 members. Their numbers are hard to ascertain, as they oppose statistics. This division is usually designated by

the name of Old Order Dunkards. The largest part who made and enforced the laws of the Annual Conference are known as the German Baptist Brethren. They numbered after the two divisions forty or fifty thousand. They are often called the Conservative Brethren, but are known best in this part of the country by the name Dunkard.

For some fifteen or twenty years before these unfortunate divisions, a man by the name of H. R. Holsinger studied up the history of the church and through pulpit and press advocated the primitive doctrine of the Gospel as taught and practiced by the founder of the church. He began to oppose many of their added traditions and advocated colleges and Sunday Schools, educated ministers, opposed a set church style of dress, and particularly opposed the growing power of the Annual Meeting, which destroyed the consciences of many of their leading members.

Finally he was arrayed before the annual meeting, accused publicly before thousands of people. This meeting appointed a committee to try him. He employed a shorthand reporter to take down the proceedings.

The committee objected to a report, but as he was publicly accused he asked for a public trial. His home church unanimously sustained this. The committee refused a public hearing, and expelled him without a trial. Over a hundred of the leading preachers refused to recognize this expulsion.

In 1883 a denomination of 1400 members represented by delegates met in conference in Ashland, Ohio, with about an equal number of the Dunkard church and after adopting the Gospel, the whole Gospel and nothing but the Gospel for their creed organized, and called themselves the Brethren Church. Since that time they have made great progress and now number nearly 20,000 members. They have built houses of worship in about thirty States of the union. They have a university at Ashland, O., that cost \$60,000. They have a church paper, Sunday School literature, Book and Tract Society and a

#### WAR!!!

Fighting is now going on between the three great northern railroads to the coast. You can ride from St. Paul, Omaha or Kansas City to Seattle for ten dollars.

#### BARGAINS!!!

Force of circumstances has compelled interested parties to offer lands in the Yakima Valley, Washington, for 50 per cent. of what they brought previous and during the panic and hard times.

#### HOMES!!!

Can be secured in this delightful climate, where is the very greatest opportunity for diversified farming. It is a great fruit country, but lands are cheap enough to raise stock. It is conceded to be the finest dairy countries in the world.

#### A COLONY!!!

Is now being formed. The low price of lands and the great cut in railroad rates may not last long. Address at once:

H. M. LICHTY, North Yakima, Wash.  
ALBERT SAYLOR, Seattle, Wash.  
W. T. SHOEMAKER, Sunnyside, Wash.  
CHRIST ROWLAND, Lanark, Ill.

Home and Foreign Missionary Board and are pushing the missionary cause.

Elder Bowman, who has the oversight of the Philadelphia church with a number of mission workers, has five other points, the outgrowth of the work in Philadelphia. They also received an organized church with two ministers in Philadelphia. Just a few weeks ago fifty members of the Amwell German Baptist or Dunkard church, of New Jersey, with four deacons and one preacher, were organized into a Brethren church by Elder Bowman. Eight miles from this Amwell church near Croton, N. J., the Philadelphia Church is building a church, which will be dedicated in a few weeks. They have a church nearly ready for dedication on the eastern shore of Maryland. They also have a mission in Philadelphia, besides this one in Allentown. As their work is broadening the Lord is giving them workers. They ordained an elder in Philadelphia and also baptized another minister last Sunday. These men will help to take care of these mission points. As they enlarge in membership and increase in spiritual development, they will be organized into separate congregations and cease as missions.

Elder Bowman, who will dedicate this church and conduct a series of meetings, has been greatly blessed as an evangelist. He has received about 1200 members into the Brethren church in the last ten years.

During the continued meetings after dedication he will give a series of addresses on full salvation, including Apostolic baptism with its spiritual design, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Bible Sanctification, the Coming of the Lord, the Signs of the Times, the Millennium, etc.

#### New Enterprise, Ind.

Last evening we held our Spring communion at New Enterprise, and while our number is small at this place we were made to rejoice when we saw that they all were at the table except five sisters and we feel that they would have been glad to have been there, but could not come, and this always makes the pastor feel good when he gets a large per cent. of the members out to services and especially to communion. To say that we had a love feast is putting it just right.

On Saturday evening we ordained our beloved brother, W. P. Drake, to the office of Deacon, and we feel now that we are getting organized again and will be better equipped for the Master's work.

Many in the brotherhood know what this little band has passed through in the last four years. It was almost discouraged and it seemed it must fall, but a few faithful ones have stood by the cause. God has blessed us and we praise His holy name and give Him the glory that we stand firmly on the gospel-alone platform in love and union and we just pray God that they may ever abide in that love. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another." Brethren, pray for us.

Faternally yours,

D. A. HOPKINS.